



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

January 13, 2020

Matt Accardi
Associate General Counsel
Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
25 Beaver Street, 5th floor, New York, NY 10004

Dear Mr. Accardi:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Hempstead Lake State Park December 2019 revised Environmental Assessment (EA). This project is part of the Living with the Bay Project and Resiliency Strategy (LWTB) for Nassau County, New York. The LWTB project was awarded \$125 million by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Rebuild by Design program. As such, the document was prepared by the State of New York, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), serving under the auspices of New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Housing Trust Fund Corporation, and acting under HUD-delegated authority.

The purpose of the LWTB project is to provide a comprehensive suite of potential projects intended to provide long-term resilience and climate change adaptation for Nassau County communities in the Mill River Watershed. The LWTB project includes six general project areas. This EA evaluated the Hempstead Lake State Park project component. The Hempstead Lake State Park project would make improvements to the 521-acre state park located in the northern portion of the LWTB project area. The project would improve the Park's existing water management infrastructure and provide new educational and recreational amenities.

EPA concurs with the finding of no significant impact pending receipt of the approved U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit for this project. It is very important that the Monitoring Plan, Maintenance Plan, Invasive Plant Species Removal Plan, and Planting Plan identified as part of this permit be adhered to in order to assure no degradation to water quality within the park/project areas as a result of construction activities. We also recommend planting of native trees in appropriate areas to offset the trees that will be felled during construction activities.

If you have any questions concerning this matter or would like additional information, please feel free to contact Michael Poetzsch at (212) 637-4147.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Kluesner

David Kluesner, Acting Director
Strategic Programs Office